

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office's acknowledgement that claims 2, 5-13 and 15 are directed to allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The Office, however, has finally rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,699,461 (Barnes).

On September 24, 2008, applicant filed an earlier Response After Final Office Action wherein applicant respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, 1-15, are both novel and inventive in view of the Barnes '461 patent. On October 22, 2008, the Office issued an Advisory Action indicating applicants request for reconsideration was considered but it was not viewed as placing the application in condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of dependent claim 2 which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Former dependent claims 3-6 are now dependent on amended independent claim 1. Similarly, applicant has amended independent claim 14 to incorporate the features of its dependent claim 15 which also was indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 16-20 (which correspond to dependent claims 2-6, respectively) and new dependent claim 21 (which corresponds to dependent claim 13) are now dependent on amended independent claim 14. New independent claim 22 is former dependent claim 13 rewritten in independent form. In that regard, dependent claim 13 also had been indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 23-27 are now dependent on new independent claim 22 and these dependent claims correspond to original dependent claims 2-6, respectively. Similarly, new independent claim 28 is former dependent claim 6 written in independent form.

Dependent claim 6 had been indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

In the course of reviewing the application, applicant noted a clerical error in the reference numeral used to refer to the concealed spring in paragraphs 59, 60 and 63. In that regard, the correct reference numeral for the spring (as shown in Fig. 13) is “60” and not “59” which refers to the seal. Applicant has amended the specification to correct this clerical error.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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